



The March Diary

- 2nd Rotary Lunch
- 6th Crocus Concert
- 7th Community & Vocational
Committee
- Classification &
Membership Committee
- 8th Crocus Concert
- 9th Rotary Meeting
- 12th Practice Interviews
- 14th Foundation Committee
- 15th Practice Interviews
- 16th Rotary Lunch
- 18th Young Musician District
Final
- 19th Club AGM
- 20th Sports & Entertainment
Committee
- 21st International Committee
Youth Services Committee
- 23rd Rotary Meeting
- 23rd to
- 25th District Conference
- 28th Council Meeting



President's Pen for February

February has been quite a busy month in our Rotary calendar.

Our Young Musician final at Tudor Hall was once again a great showcase for local talented musicians and both the afternoon and evening sessions were of a really good standard of entertainment. I am sure there will be a report elsewhere in the Bulletin but I must thank Tudor Hall our host and main sponsor, One Man Band and Banbury Town Council and all our advertisers and of course our adjudicators. A big thank you to all those Rotarians who helped during the event and a special thank you to Gareth Jeremy for being the driving force behind the event.

My thanks must go to Nigel Yeadon and his Committee for organising the theatre trip, which I was unfortunately unable to attend, but I know that the evening was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

Nigel's Committee were also responsible for organising the Club darts competition and fish and chip supper. It was a great social evening but I have to say that the standard of play was not the highlight of the evening and the fact that I won just about sums it up!! Many thanks to Martin & the Cricket Club for hosting us - at times we were asked to throw "nearest the bull" sometimes it was more like "nearest the board".

Several Club members attended Cherwell Rotary's Chinese New Year event at Croughton Village Hall and myself and Ian Anthistle attended the induction of 6 ex-Rotaractors into full membership of the Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club.

We have had a varied range of speakers during the month (details elsewhere in the Bulletin) and it was great to welcome back

Vanessa Picker, last year's Rotary Scholar, to talk to us again at our Frugal Lunch.



Ed - Vanessa gave us a valuable insight into her research relating to the testing of the effectiveness of charitable giving in terms of time and donations. Something as a Club that we should perhaps be reviewing to ascertain where we can implement improvements.

We are approaching another busy month in our Rotary calendar and I hope that Rotarians try to support the activities as they are able.

President Alan Wolstencroft

Speaker Reports

Tim Bloomfield – Guide Dogs

On 2nd February we had a very interesting talk by Tim Bloomfield accompanied by Brood Bitch Bracken, a four year old German Shepherd. Tim is a Supervisor at the National Breeding Centre of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and was standing in for his boss at short notice.

The talk was split into two parts, the first being about the work of the association generally with details of how dogs are matched to blind or visually

impaired people and trained from the age of about 14 months old.



Dogs are usually fully trained by about two years old and, after careful matching of temperaments and physical size, then stay with their owners until they are about eightish provided they are physically and mentally fit. Some work a bit longer than that. They only work when in harness and are just like any other pet dog otherwise. After retirement they very often stay with the visually impaired person but if they can't there is a waiting list of people willing to have them. Currently there are around 4,500 working Guide Dogs.

The Association does not receive any government funding and relies entirely on the work of volunteers raising money all over the country and donations from wills. The money raised nationally is used to cover all aspects of the work done by the association.

Each dog costs on average around £50,000 which covers rearing, food, training, veterinary care etc. A brief demonstration using two blindfolded club members showed the difficulty of getting across a simple room. The fact that Rtn. Dibb nearly flattened Rtn. Wiltshire is neither here nor there!

Turning to the work of the Breeding Centre, the Stud Dogs and Brood Bitches live, virtually as pets, with families. Although it is the National Breeding Centre the breeding stock is all within an hour of Bishops Tachbrook.

Careful records are maintained to ensure there is no inbreeding and although stud dogs are used as

and when required, brood bitches normally have only 5 litters between the age of over two until about eight provided they are physically and mentally fit. Again all these dogs have full veterinary care. The mating sessions are done at the Breeding Centre. Litter numbers can vary from one to thirteen but the bitches are scanned to try to ascertain in advance how many there are (just like humans). After retirement the dogs and bitches are neutered and will either stay with the people or, again, there is a waiting list of people willing to take them.

It is preferred that the puppies be born in a home so that inter-reaction with normal family life can begin early. However the Breeding Centre is, as you would expect, fully equipped with fully trained staff to whelp the bitches there if necessary, and they are on hand to help with any problems with bitches whelping in the home environment. All the appropriate equipment is provided for the birthing of puppies such as dog box, bedding, heat lamp, food etc. The most used dogs are crossed pure Labradors/ Retrievers, but there are lots of other crosses with standard Poodles and Shepherds.

The puppies are fed and cleaned by their mother because they are born with their eyes closed and it takes a couple of weeks or so for them to become more active. They begin being weaned off milk at around three weeks (it can vary) so that by six weeks they can eat solids. They are then taken into the Breeding Centre for assessment to ensure they are suitable for retention. Sometimes they may be better suited to other organisations as, say sniffer dogs.

The puppies then, after inoculations, go to Puppy Walkers for socialising and basic training before being returned just after a year or so of age to the Breeding Centre for distribution throughout the Training Centres around the country.

The Breeding Centre also has need of people to board dogs in the home environment for varying reasons such as holders becoming ill etc. This would be only a short term commitment and suitable for retired people!

Rtn. Malcolm Dibb

Tim Bryce – Tim’s Trek (Lechlade to London)



With Dave Walker (who accompanied Tim with the narrow boat) recording the end of the challenge.

On Friday 9th February Tim Bryce gave us an excellent presentation of his Thames Path Trek. Through a series of photographs, Tim showed his love of the Thames and his enjoyment of the walk he had undertaken.

Tim took us through recollections of his early childhood in Lechlade, encounters with a collection of curious cows, passages through manifold locks, peaceful scenes of quiet stretches of quintessential ‘tales of the riverbank’ countryside, meetings with various visiting Banbury Rotarians and finally the sight of Dave, Tim’s narrowboat-steering companion - with “Go, Tim, Go” poster tucked beneath his arm ready to ditch at the final destination.



At Northmoor Lock

Those present were able to admire Tim’s photographic skills as we viewed a series of carefully-selected scenes along Tim’s 125-mile route. The curious cows also appeared to recognise the care of this ex-professional bovine photographer - outstaring him fondly as they posed quizzically before his camera. Perhaps they knew

their ancestors had struck similar poses before the self-same photographer at numerous agricultural shows of yesteryear.

Tim asked that I close this short report by expressing his sincere thanks to the Club for the support he received for his venture. It was really very much appreciated. Only when questioned at the close of his talk did Tim reveal that his trek had raised over £1,000 for Alan's African educational projects. What an excellent way to celebrate being an octogenarian in good health!

Rtn. Fred Riches

Janine Burton – Brackley Dippers Club



Janine talked about Brackley Dippers swimming Club. It is a facility for people with disabilities, Stokes Arthritis etc.

It has been going for over thirty years, consists of trained swimmers to help in the water and trained people to help with dressing and undressing and helping people safely into the pool with the aid of a hoist for those unable to use the steps. They also have aqua aerobics.

It is funded by people using the club and donations, also through coffee mornings about four times a year. Janice approached The Cooperative Society and we have enough money to replace the hoist when the new pool in Brackley is completed.

Having used Brackley Dippers myself I would say it is a very worthwhile facility.

Rtn. Pat Thomas

Events

Banbury Young Chef



Background

In line with the last 9 years of the local competition, project plans were developed in September, starting with discussions with Banbury & Bicester Campus of Active Learning Colleges and our daughter Club, Banbury Cherwell. Once the venue and date for use of the College for the Banbury heat cooking final were agreed all of the secondary schools in the Banbury area were approached with full details of the competition asking for the appropriate staff members to encourage their students to take part and we were on the way!

The first stage of making an application with details of menus were required by the closing date in mid-December and as ever we had to sit on our hands and wait to learn whether there was sufficient interest for the competition to take place. Most of the schools expressed interest in September and had taken part in the past but of course there was no certainty they would support the event again and many did not without making any contact with Rotary. Communication never seems to be their strong point!

On receipt of an adequate number of application mainly from the College the normal paper assessment of applications took place to select the most promising candidates with healthy menus to be selected as finalists.

At last there was certainty and we could carry on making the remainder of the arrangements for the final scheduled for Tuesday January 23rd.

This year, conscious of the pressure on the Banbury Charities (who have sponsored the event for the

past 8 years), a commercial sponsor, Reg Howe, was found and he kindly agreed to support the event with the same level of sponsorship.

The Main Event

On the day regrettably 2 of the candidates fell ill reducing the numbers who took part on the evening.

After 2 hours of time pressured cooking by the finalists the 3 experienced judges emerged with a unanimous winner and runner-up.

17 year old College student Sophie Brown was the winner with a meal of:

Roasted cod with vegetables, followed by chocolate and hazelnut mousse,

Runner-up was Liam Wood of Brackley, who is a fellow student of Sophie's at the College and impressed the judges with his mushroom and chicken risotto with bacon followed by raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake.

Sophie has decided not to take part in the District final on 24th February in Bourne End where there is the possibility of taking a further step towards April's National final of the Rotary competition.

The evening concluded with certificates for each Finalists being presented by Reg Howe and the trophies by Colin Clarke the Town Mayor

Reg Howe, proprietor of sponsor Reg's Catering, comments:

"We were delighted to be involved in this fantastic competition. The judges had an extremely difficult choice though in the end, I'd say they made the right decision. But the food prepared by every single one of these talented youngsters was absolutely amazing. The standard of the food they were able to deliver in such a short time certainly gives me hope that some of them will consider a career in our industry. And if I were in their parents' shoes, I'd be sitting back and letting the kids dish up the family meals in future."

Rtn. Bernard Goodchild

Banbury Young Musician of the Year



Banbury Young Musician 2018 - Alexandra Jordan



Banbury Junior Musician 2018 - Amelie Chen

The finals of the Banbury Young Musician of the Year competition took place on Saturday 10th February at Tudor Hall School. This was the 28th annual staging of the competition instigated by Rotarian Gareth Jeremy, who continues to lead a team of Rotarians in the annual organisation of the event. The main sponsors of the 2018 competition were Tudor Hall School, Banbury Town Council and One Man Band Music Shop.

There were 74 individual entrants. Twelve made the finals in the junior section, eleven in the intermediate and eight in the senior. Additionally

four groups made it to the finals of the ensemble competitions.

The team of professional musicians judging the competition congratulated the competitors on the very high standard of musicianship and performance. Judging the winners in several extremely closely-competed sections was an extremely challenging task.

Awards for solo piano, strings, woodwind, brass, guitar and voice as well as duets and ensembles were presented at the close of the junior final and at the end of the combined intermediate and senior finals. In all 24 trophies were presented.

The winning ensemble was Sibford Friends School Junior Choir. The award for the most entertaining entrant went to a brother and sister duet - Sebastian and Jessica Foxwell. The award for Junior Musician of the Year 2018 went to pianist Amelie Chen. The overall Banbury Musician of the Year was flautist Alexandra Jordan.

Four of the winners were invited to attend the regional finals to be held at Reading in March. Isobel Bee and Mary Eckert were put forward as singers. Venetia Moir, pianist, and overall winner Alexandra Jordan go forward as instrumentalists. Those successful at that stage may perform at national finals in Edinburgh in May.

Rtn. Fred Riches

Council Notes (28th February)

Funding plans for a storage container for Club to be shared with Inner Wheel were discussed to assist Rtn. Harry Matthews who is leading on this project.

Council approved the formation of the Public Relations Working Group comprising of Rtn. David Sullivan as chair with Rtns. Andrew Fairbairn, Owen Kyffin, John Groves, Ron Barnett and Fred Riches. Council emphasized the importance of all working groups and committee chairs reporting all developments directly to this group.

Funding requests were received for:

- 1) £300 from the International committee for an education project in Gambia;
- 2) £300 from Com & Voc - set up costs for the Party for Partially Sighted at Wroxton House Hotel; and

3) £2,000 for Contact 2019 set up costs from ring-fenced account.

Reminder of Club AGM on 19th March at 7.30pm. Nibbles will be available. Attendance board to be circulated to ensure Quorum.

Unrestricted Funds stand at £2,809.94.

Next year's Budget agreed.

Our President is to receive his RIBI "Champion of Change" award at Cardiff City Hall on 18th May. Many congratulations.

More information on General Data Protection Regulations will be circulated to Club when available.

Contact 2018 will see group of between 12 to 16 visiting Olten in Switzerland from 10 May.

Rtn. Peter Wilkins Hon Assistant Secretary

Katharine House Hospice



John Webb presenting a cheque to Mrs Wendy Cross of KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE for £4,550-00 as the club's contribution to the hospice from our Street Organ collections at Tesco and Sainsbury's at Christmastide 2017.

Rtn. John Webb

Weekly Meeting Duties for March 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Table Duty</u>	<u>Cash Desk</u>	<u>Fellowship</u>	<u>F&H in charge</u>
02 Mar	D Wright J Brodey M Budd T Bryce N Deakin S Dhesi	I Calderbank P Cavill	B Cornley	A Ilott
09 Mar	J Donaldson M Douglas A Fairbairn P Gardiner B Goodchild J Hansford	N Halfpenny J Groves	T Iles	D Hitchcox
16 Mar	O Kyffin K Manning H Matthews A McHugh J Meredith H Morris	C Hughes G Jeremy	R Nurden	D Sullivan
23 Mar	M Nutt M Phillips G Pollard D Richardson F Riches P Shea	S Porter N Randall	I Rodrick	A Wiltshire
30 Mar	Good Friday	No meeting		

PLEASE REMEMBER - If you are unable to carry out your duties as shown above, it is your responsibility to arrange a substitute and amend the list. This applies to all duties, including table duties.

Speaker Programme for March & April

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Host</u>
2 Mar	John Webb	Lord Mayor of London's New Year Parade	Andrew Fairbairn
9 Mar	Burt Pickering	My experience as a Brodey Scholar	John Brodey
16 Mar	Daren Wright	New member	John Donaldson
23 Mar		Fellowship Meeting	
30 Mar	Good Friday	No meeting	
6 Apr	Nick Poole	Banbury Improvement District and Banbury Chamber of Commerce Update	Tony Ilott
13 Apr	Beth Lewis	Coffee	John Donaldson
20 Apr	Sam	Rotary Scholar	Martin Phillips
27 Apr	Graham Anker	A Very Proud Dad	Bob Thompson